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The Highlander

Thursday **June 13 2024** | Issue 644

INSIDE: KOSY CHANGES HANDS PAGE 10

FREE



Kelly McGowan, Aurora McGinn and their daughter, Marina, at the school bus stop in Minden June 12. Photo by Mike Baker.

Parents pan new bus plan

By Mike Baker

A group of County moms are speaking out in the hopes of reversing a Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB) decision to stop busing some students to and from school in Haliburton and Minden.

In letters distributed by local principals to parents in April, TLDSB said it has recently completed a review of transportation routes in Haliburton County. It has decided students who live in the villages will no longer be bused. The change impacts one family Wilberforce and none in Cardiff.

The board's policy states elementary-aged students living within 1.6 kilometres of school, and high school students within 3.2 kilometres, aren't eligible to be bused. The rules will come into effect in September.

Carolynne Bull, TLDSB communications lead, said the review completed in Haliburton and Minden this school year is similar to ones done in Bracebridge, Huntsville, Kirkfield, Kilworthy, and Fenelon Falls.

"These reviews look at whether exceptional conditions exist and whether changes are needed," Bull said.

"During the Haliburton/Minden review, it was noted the conditions in the villages... are similar to those in other areas of review and similar to the conditions across TLDSB for schools without any exception areas.

"Sidewalks are not a factor in the board's decision-making. Posted speed does play a factor, though posted 40km/h [zones are] considered safe," she added.

Bull did not respond to questions about how many County-based students will be impacted by the change, and whether TLDSB stands to save any money.

Minden resident Aurora McGinn said she has spent weeks looking for answers. Living on Water Street, approximately 1.2 kilometres from Archie Stouffer Elementary School – where her daughter, Marina, is in Grade 1 – McGinn said she'll be stuck come the fall.

"We're a one-vehicle family, so this is a problem for us. I will have to drive my husband to work, then my

Continued 'Parents' on page 2

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Marina McGowan and Baylen Taylor getting on the bus. Photo by Mike Baker.

Parents say decision 'not safe'

Continued from page 1

daughter to school, then get myself to work later than usual. I'll also have to leave early to collect my daughter and take her home," McGinn said. "They are saying she could walk, but she's very young right now."

McGinn says she has asked multiple times for a copy of the review TLDSB completed but is still waiting. *The Highlander* has also failed to obtain a copy.

"I want the truth – if TLDSB claims to have done a review, they should be willing to share it," McGinn said.

April Hirstwood, head of the ASES parent council, said this is a major concern for the community.

"What TLDSB is doing is not OK. It's not safe. We don't have crossing guards. We don't have lights where kids can safely cross," Hirstwood said. "Towns like Lindsay have a set up for kids to walk to school safely. Minden and Haliburton do not."

She believes these new rules will lead to a drop in attendance at ASES and other schools.

"It's going to be easier for some parents to just let their kids stay home," Hirstwood said.

TLDSB transportation supervisor Tricia Hayward indicated the concerns the board has heard thus far, "are considered to be normal, everyday risks where due caution can and should be exercised by students and parents."

Minden Hills CAO Cynthia Fletcher said the township is

investing money this year to improve overall community safety, including new signage along Water Street, two new digital speed signs on Water Street and Bobcaygeon Road, and extending community safety zones – which carry a 40km/h speed limit – on Bobcaygeon Road from Sunnybrook Bridge to Hwy. 35, and on Water Street from Bobcaygeon Road to Hwy. 35.

Issues in Haliburton

Lorena Selk said the new rules will leave her without childcare for her youngest child, who is in Grade 3 at Stuart Baker Elementary School.

Selk said her high-school-aged son will no longer be able to ride the bus, so has less time to look after his sibling.

"Finding alternate childcare is next to impossible. I have the best built-in sitter already, I'm very frustrated about this," Selk said.

Hayward said it was parents' responsibility to find a safe way to get their children to and from school, and organize child care, not the board's.

TLDSB is set to review its transportation policy next year. McGinn said she's hoping to inspire change.

"I would suggest children under the age of 12 shouldn't have to walk 1.6 km to and from school. Perhaps for the older grades that may be more acceptable, but for young kids who come home exhausted already, it's too much," McGinn said.

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Think big to build small communities

By Mike Baker

Almost every problem in Haliburton County can be solved by engaging and inspiring community residents, Peter Kenyon – one of the world’s top economic development specialists – told a group of leaders in Minden June 6.

The keynote speaker at last week’s Teeny Tiny Summit at the Minden Community Centre, Kenyon has spent the past 30 years helping communities overcome issues by embracing localized ideas – first in his home of Australia, and now around the world.

“Whatever the problem – community is the answer,” Kenyon said. “The best thing about living in a small town is somebody somewhere knows the answer... Seeking out wisdom from local people is always the most important starting point, no matter what you’re doing or how clever you think you are.”

He told the story of Ernesto Sirotli, a celebrated Italian scholar and author, who, in his early career, was contracted to assist countries in east Africa to come up with ways to bolster local food supply.

Sirotli worked with people to establish a series of vegetable gardens, teaching them how to grow things such as tomatoes and greens.

“Everything was great... until 200 hippos came charging out of the Zambezi and ate all the vegetables,” Kenyon said, drawing laughter from the crowd. “Sirotli was beside himself, he asked why nobody had told him about the hippos. The people said ‘well, you never asked’.”

He referenced other success stories where communities embraced new ideas and enjoyed unparalleled success - none more than Kulin, Australia.

Wanting to stop the trend of decades of depopulation, stemming from young people leaving to pursue careers, Kulin established a plan to become “more than a dot on the map,” Kenyon said.

It started with a marquee event – the launch of the Kulin Bush Races in 1994. What started as low-level horse racing, attracting a few hundred people, has grown into one of the most popular annual events in Australia. It brings 5,000 visitors to Kulin every October, with last year’s gathering selling out in 28 seconds.

“It’s two days of partying, but people come



Peter Kenyon was the keynote speaker at the Teeny Tiny Summit in Minden June 6. Photo by Mike Baker.

from all over. It’s amazing how they’ve adapted and changed things so that it appeals to all generations,” Kenyon said, noting last year’s event generated \$600,000 profit, which was reinvested into the community, and about \$2 million for the local economy.

In the years since, Kulin has opened a giant waterslide and waterpark, which has provided another tourism boom, and its people have rallied to open a community bank, the first of its kind in Australia, and established a community cooperative to run a pub and community centre.

“I love this little town – it’s inspiring. The population there has trebled since, while all other towns nearby have halved. There were more babies born in Kulin than any other [town] in Australia,” Kenyon said.

He shone a light on Kaikoura, a small village in New Zealand. In the 1980s, when the main railway into town closed, most of the local fisheries shut. Kenyon said about 95 per cent of the Maori villagers were fishermen.

Rather than chase new jobs out of town, the villagers came together to launch a sightseeing operation for tourists wanting to go whale watching. The founding families

re-mortgaged their houses to buy a boat big enough to take eight people per trip.

Today, that operation sees around 150,000 people a year – and Kaikoura has become the top whale watching destination in the world.

“All it took was a group of people saying, ‘what do we have’ rather than focusing on what they don’t have, or what they lost, to make a difference,” Kenyon said.

He said there are seven key characteristics of a strong community: committed local leadership; active community engagement and connection; fostering a positive and can-do community mindset; being obsessed about developing new assets and opportunities; developing a localized wow-factor; focusing on lifestyle for young people; and supporting entrepreneurial aspirations and initiatives.

“Leadership is not a position – it’s a set of behaviours, an attitude. It’s about making things happen,” Kenyon said. “It’s about inspiring people to come forward to enact change. It’s about future-proofing towns, making them attractive for young people, because they’re the future.”

Angelica Ingram, the County’s manager of tourism, said Kenyon’s speech provided food for thought for all 150-plus attendees.

Other presentations featured Fay Martin, from Places for People, who spoke about the organization’s fundraising initiatives and attempts to bring more affordable housing to the County; Kevin Hodgkinson from the Haliburton County Home Builders’ Association, discussed trades opportunities for young people; representatives from Point in Time promoted the Youth Wellness Hub and the difference its supports and programs have made for young people; and Patti Tallman, from Haliburton County Development Corporation, provided an update on the local initiatives program that supports economic development in the Highlands.

“The summit proved to be an exciting and inspiring day filled with forward-thinking ideas and conversations,” Ingram said. “I think everyone who attended learned even teeny tiny places such as Minden and Haliburton can achieve success if like-minded individuals work together and focus on the positive.”

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Connections key for dementia patients

By Lillie Qiu

A rural living and dementia care conference, focusing on challenges, solutions and innovations associated with the terminal illness, provided hope and answers to some attendees at Pinestone Resort June 3.

Hosted by Aging Together as Community Haliburton Highlands (ATAC) and McMaster University, the event brought professors, family physicians, and other healthcare specialists face-to-face with the Highlands community last week.

Speakers ranged from those living with dementia, to experts discussing unique care models working in other countries – such as green care farms and the butterfly model of care, both prominent in Europe.

County residents Beth and Peter O'Connor started the day, sharing their personal experiences fighting dementia. Beth was diagnosed with Lewy body syndrome – a type of dementia – in June 2023. She said she'd been experiencing symptoms for about a year, beginning while they were on vacation in Newfoundland in the summer of 2022.

Beth said they both caught COVID-19 while out east – Beth was hospitalized with a high fever, which she says she's thankful for as it was that hospital stint that led, eventually, to her dementia diagnosis. Prior to her diagnosis, Beth said she was planning her retirement.

"To me, it wasn't so much an age thing, it was there was something wrong and it wasn't going away," said Beth of her diagnosis.

In her talk, Beth mentioned how she saw hope in her own journey with dementia – and of new innovations in artificial intelligence in



Dr. Anthea Innes during her presentation, speaking to the crowd at the dementia care conference on June 3. *Photo by Lillie Qiu.*

dementia care.

"Things and habits I do for myself are better than any medicine; exercise, diet, and a positive frame of mind. Staying active socially and being involved in things like yoga," said Beth, when describing how she's coped with the diagnosis.

Dr. Sandy Shamon, a lecturer at the University of Toronto and a clinical professor at McMaster University, talked about breaking down barriers to care and the challenges surrounding that.

She touched on how there is work to be

done in getting medical and nursing students to choose geriatric care and to work in long-term care facilities. She believes being an active part of community, and making new connections, can go a long way for people struggling with dementia.

Shamon said the World Health Organization is starting to recognize that the health and wellbeing of an individual cannot be separated from the health and wellbeing of the community, or "the ecosystem". Shamon also touched on the importance of advocacy work, pushing for change in dementia care.

Bonnie Roe, the ATAC lead, said she likes these types of events because it gets "everyone's voices involved." The goal, she said, is spreading the idea that just because you're aging doesn't mean you belong in a long-term care home.

"I think that's what an event like today does," she said.

Roe notes that "we're all aging" and the point is, "how do we age in a way that reflects who we are as an individual and who we've been as a person."

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NOTICE: PUBLIC MEETING - PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TOWNSHIP'S FEES AND CHARGES BY-LAW

Take notice that the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills will be holding a Public Meeting on Thursday, June 13, 2024, during its Regular Council Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Township's Fees and Charges By-law. The meeting will commence at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers located at 7 Milne Street, Minden ON.

Proposed changes are included in the following. Schedules and are also available on the website www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom:

- Schedule A Classes of Permits and Fees for Building
- Schedule F Planning Department Fees / Short-Term Rental Fees
- Schedule G Cemetery
- Schedule H Community Services Programs & Facilities
- Schedule L Local Community Insurance Services

Members of the public wishing to participate may attend in-person or join electronically and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting regarding proposed changes to the Fees and Charges By-law.

Electronic participants must pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Wednesday June 12, 2024 before 4:00 PM or by attending and registering the morning of the meeting before 8:30 AM.

Participants registering electronically after 8:30 AM will not be permitted into the public meeting.

To attend the Zoom virtual meeting via Web, type <https://zoom.us/join> into your browser or attend by dialing the number below:

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REPORTING ISSUES

Reporting issues such as road condition or maintenance needs can be done by calling 705-286-3144 Monday-Friday 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours emergencies can be reported by calling 1-866-856-3247.

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MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- Join us for the second topic of our Community Heritage Series *The Stories of Funeral Practices in Minden* presented by Kristen Monk on Thursday, June 13 from 1-2:30 pm at the Cultural Centre. Visit the online calendar for more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-06-13-1300-Community-Heritage-Series-The-Stories-of-Funeral-P>
 - The Agnes Jamieson Gallery is pleased to welcome back artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman with her new exhibit *Flower Orphanage*. Everyone is welcome to the Opening Reception for the Artist Talk and to view the exhibit on Saturday, June 15 from 1-3 pm. Visit the online calendar for more info: <https://calendar.mindenhills.ca/default/Detail/2024-06-15-1000-Flower-Orphanage-An-Exhibit-by-Michele-Karch-Acker>
 - The Knitting Village provides free knitting lessons for children ages 11-14. The next class take place on June 18 from 3:30-4:30 pm at the Cultural Centre. All materials are supplied.
 - The Minden Hills Museum, Heritage Village and Nature's Place are now open for the season Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. Join us for daily drop-in programs and tours including: *Toddler Discovery Zone*, June 14 from 11 am – 12 pm and *Hands-On Saturday* from 11 am – 12 pm.
- For more information on all our programs and exhibits: email culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted with a hybrid model of in-person (Council Chambers) and electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act. Meetings begin at 9:00 AM unless otherwise noted. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- June 13 – Regular Council Meeting
- June 27 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link on the Township CivicWeb Portal at <https://mindenhills.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingTypeList.aspx>. Visit our website for more information.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

We are currently seeking energetic and highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

- Casual Community Services Operator
- Roads Equipment Operator
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Please visit our website at www.mindenhills.ca/careers/ for a complete list of available positions and how to apply.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL POLLINATOR WEEK JUNE 17-23

Pollinator Week is an annual celebration in support of pollinator health. Did you know there are thousands of pollinators in Canada? This includes butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, and bees! There are many ways you can celebrate:

- Plant habitat in your backyard using native plants; prioritize plants that are native to our region and incorporate a range of plants that provide food for pollinators from spring to fall
- Build native bee houses
- Avoid insecticides as these can harm pollinators



Plan to guide Highlands East into 2028

By Lisa Gervais

Highlands East residents who did an online survey and took part in focus groups towards the township's corporate strategic plan got to see the fruits of their labour during a June 4 council meeting.

Capital Parks Consulting presented the municipalities' plan – that also involved councillors, staff and other groups, at a special council meeting.

The "high level" deep dive found Highlands East has more seniors, and fewer young adults, than most Ontario municipalities. It further noted a large increase in the permanent population in 2021, likely due to seasonal residents becoming permanent ones during COVID. It was a similar story for other cottage country-type townships. And while it is not known what the statistics have been like since 2021, consultant Steve Lichty suggested it is a trend that is likely continuing.

Lichty said nearly 70 per cent of survey respondents rated the quality of life in HE as good, and more than 15 per cent as very good. A little over 10 per cent chose poor and a small percentage very poor.

Survey respondents asked, "considering all of the programs and services" provided, overall satisfaction with the township ranked over 50 per cent. But nearly 25 per cent answered dissatisfied."

As far as strengths, the clear-cut winners were Highlands East's natural setting and lakes and rivers.

"It speaks to the fact that you need to really protect your environment in order to protect the quality of life," Lichty said.

The corporate strategic plan is in effect from 2024-2028.

Mayor Dave Burton, deputy mayor Cec Ryall and councillors Angela Lewis, Cam



Capital Park Consulting met with Highlands East councillors and staff earlier this year on the township's corporate strategic plan.
Photo by Lisa Gervais.

McKenzie and Ruth Strong said, "our new plan will be the blueprint guiding our actions, investments, and initiatives to fulfill the shared vision we have crafted together."

CAO Brittany McCaw and staff added, "this plan represents our shared commitment to building a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive municipality that meets the needs of current and future generations."

McCaw said the key priorities are thriving community, service, operational excellence, and environmental stewardship.

Speaking to thriving community, Lichty used the example of prioritizing consultation, communication and commitment, noting many people have two residences; one in the GTA and one in Highlands East, as well as lack of internet when in the County. He said it required more traditional ways of

communicating with those residents.

With service and operational excellence, Lichty said it was important to consolidate municipal services under one roof to provide a "one-stop-shopping" approach. Council has discussed a new township office but so far, the cost has stopped them from proceeding. Lichty also stressed the need to attract and keep staff, suggesting things such as alternate work weeks and remote work options.

As for environmental stewardship, strategic actions ranged from promoting erosion control to looking at alternative energy sources for municipal buildings.

He said with each council decision comes strategic questions to ensure action is aligned with the plan.

Lichty added the plan is a roadmap for politicians and senior staff to follow, "to

guide decision-making while considering the annual budget and while determining work plan priorities." He noted staff would regularly report back to council. He said the plan wasn't the endpoint but a starting point.

"You put a lot of time and effort and thought into coming up with these strategic priorities, goals, and actions and if you focus on them, you'll probably achieve them. If you get distracted by other things, you probably won't."

Ryall said he finds these types of reports, "paint a picture at about 5,000 feet in the air. And after that, you've gotta' come down to where we need to start looking at to make things happen. This excited me and now I want to know what's next steps?"

Roadworks between Carnarvon and Ox Narrows

The Ministry of Transportation says starting June 10, construction work is underway along Hwy. 35 between Carnarvon and Ox Narrows in a project with an anticipated end date of Aug. 22.

The MTO said the project will entail single-lane closures of Hwy. 35, as well as

at the intersection of Hwy. 35 and 118 in Carnarvon.

One-lane closures will be controlled by flagging operations at each work location, and closures will take place between approximately 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

The scope of work on the project includes

culvert replacements, roadway grading, rock scaling, electrical work at the Carnarvon intersection, and the rehabilitation of bridges at Beech River, Kennisis River, Mountain Lake, Ox Narrows, as well as the Halls Lake dam pedestrian bridge.

Fidelity Engineering & Construction Inc.

has been contracted by the province to complete the work.

If residents have any questions, they can be directed to questions@fidelitygroup.ca (Lisa Gervais).



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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Work is underway on the Village Green

Construction on the Village Green parkette is continuing. It is closed with temporary access to businesses. The parking lot has limited parking.

The township said the public is asked to refrain from entering the construction site or removing any barriers to the area during the construction period. It is anticipated that the project will be completed within three to four weeks.

Meanwhile, director of public works, Mike Timmins, updated council May 30 on the public washrooms in the former fire hall in the downtown.

He said they had come close to having them open for the Victoria Day long weekend, but they are now complete and open to the public. They are accessible and “look fantastic,” he said.

Blairhampton, Soyers Lake roadworks

The township is going ahead with surface treatments on parts of Blairhampton and Soyers Lake roads this year, while Davis Lake Road has been pushed to 2025.

The contract was awarded to Miller Paving Ltd. May 30, at a cost of just over \$302,000 for Blairhampton and just under \$279,000 for Soyers Lake. Davis Lake was dropped with a price of more than \$431,000.

Timmins noted they did a joint tender with the County, and in this case, it resulted in a good price for Blairhampton and Soyers Lake roads, but not Davis Lake Road.

He suggested it could be due to the location of the source material coming from the north, when Davis Lake Road is south.

Coun. Pam Sayne said she was disappointed the municipality cannot do Davis Lake Road this year.

She added staff should investigate infrastructure grants. “The province is not giving us enough transfer payments to do the infrastructure that we need to maintain our roads.”

Timmins added they are going ahead with the Mash Creek twin culvert replacement. They are hiring Envision Excavating at a cost of \$236,000.



The Village Green is getting a new walkway. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Proposed cell towers

Two sites are proposed for cell towers in Minden Hills.

Council heard the first is at 1516 Ingoldsby Rd. The property is owned by the County of Haliburton. It would be 60 metres high. The nearest existing tower is 5.6 km away and does not currently provide meaningful service to the area, Rogers said.

Mayor Bob Carter said he is concerned there is no requirement for a light on the tower, since float planes use the area. The planner said the township’s statement of concurrence could include a request for a light.

The second tower is at 1241 Soyers Lake Rd. It is on private property and would be 90 metres high. Rogers said the nearest existing tower is 5.3 km away and does not provide meaningful service to the targeted area around Blairhampton. Council also asked for a light there.

Both are part of the Eastern Ontario Regional Network’s cell gap project.

Pride requests

Minden Pride will this year have a rainbow crosswalk near the Dominion Hotel as part of its Aug. 19-25 celebrations.

Chair Allan Guinan and past chair David Rankin spoke to Minden Hills council at its May 30 meeting.

Guinan said it would be a temporary crosswalk on main street (Bobcaygeon Road). “This is going to help promote the festival, increase visibility, and also animate and decorate the main street,” Guinan said. He added, “something like this would also help signify the support from the township.”

The committee also requested a more extensive road closure for its street festival. Guinan said it started out quite small in 2017 along a section of Water Street but has grown. He said they needed to expand because more vendors want to participate. He added they want to offer more entertainment this year, allow for a larger games area and expand for safe viewing of the Gull River float parade. “We just feel the space that

we've been working within itself may be a little constricted.”

He further said they are encouraging more business involvement this year, with hopes businesses will decorate their storefronts.

Stepping into nature wins award

Director of community services, Candace McGuigan, told council the Minden Hills Horticultural Society nominated the Haliburton County Master Gardeners and U-Links students for an Ontario Horticultural Association environmental award for the stepping into nature project.

“This is an award that’s only given to one organization in the province so that's a great recognition and they will receive their award in July,” she said.

Stepping into nature is a free, self-guided walking tour of the Minden Riverwalk trail designed by the HCMG with help from U-Links. *(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais).*

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Financial testing coming to Haliburton high school

By Mike Baker

The Ontario government has unveiled plans to improve financial literacy in high schools, introducing a new assessment students will need to pass to graduate.

Education minister Stephen Lecce said the new approach to financial learning will ensure students leave the public school system with the skills and knowledge to create and manage a household budget, save for a home, learn to invest wisely, and protect themselves from financial fraud.

Starting in September 2025, students will be required to score 70 per cent or higher to meet the financial literacy graduation requirement in their Grade 10 math course. The province is also standardizing making EQAO Grade 9 math scores reflect at least 10 per cent of a student's final mark.

It's the first major overhaul to Ontario Secondary School Diploma requirements in 25 years – the last coming in 1999 with the removal of Grade 13 and introduction of community volunteer hours.

Kim Williams, superintendent of learning for high schools at Trillium Lakelands District School Board (TLDSB), said she's still waiting to hear if a



new curriculum will be rolled out.

"School boards, right now, don't know what this is going to look like. We get the feeling [the ministry] is going to add some things... but until we get more specific information, we can't comment on what that will look like," Williams said. "Certainly, we'll talk about it. Teachers have always been excited to be able to teach that financial literacy piece – it's just a matter of... what changes are going to take place to accommodate teachers being able to spend the time they need on it."

Williams said financial literacy is a core component of Grade 9 and 11 math, and Grade 10 careers curriculums already, while it's also taught at the elementary level.

She said high schoolers across TLDSB are already testing well in financial literacy.

"In terms of the Grade 9 curriculum, when looking at EQAO test results, financial literacy is actually our strongest [area]. We're almost at the provincial level, one per cent below in terms of financial literacy," she said.

While Williams hopes the enhanced focus on financial literacy will benefit students, she doesn't want it to come at the expense of other components of the literacy and numeracy curriculums that she feels are just as important.

A long time coming

Chris Salmans, a financial adviser with Sunlife in Haliburton, said a renewed focus on financial education at the high school level is long overdue. A 2022 Royal Bank of Canada poll found around 83 per cent of young Canadians reported needing more information and support on money management, while 68 per cent reported feeling overwhelmed with financial matters and required help.

Canada also has the highest household debt level among G7 countries. Statistics Canada

reported, based on a 2021 Census survey, the national debt-to-income ratio sat at around 185 per cent – meaning for every dollar a household had in disposable income, they owed about \$1.85.

In 1980, that debt ratio was about 66 per cent.

"This renewed focus on improving basic financial skills is greatly needed. Students go to school, and they're educated on mathematics, science, and the arts. Then they go to university and get trained to do a job, but they never actually get trained on what to do with the money they earn," Salmans said. "Debt is a big problem in Canada... and I think part of the reason is newer generations aren't exposed to that education and learning the value of money."

While the recent interest rate hikes are partly to blame, along with high housing costs, Salmans said consumer debt, brought on by non-discretionary spending, has grown substantially in Canada since 2008.

Statistics Canada said, at the end of 2021, Canadians 35 and younger averaged \$69,500 of total debt, those between 35 and 44 carried \$105,100, 45 to 54 had \$130,000, 55 to 64 had \$80,600, and those 65 and older had \$49,900 worth of debt.

Equifax noted, at the end of 2021, the average Canadian owed \$72,950 in credit card debt, lines of credit, car loans, and personal loans.

"We've seen people find other ways to pay for things they want or think they need, which usually means more debt," Salmans said.

He said a good starting point for financial learning at schools would be to teach students the basics of banking – how to write a cheque, open different accounts such as RRSPs and TFSAs, understand the rates of return on investments, and the implications, and costs, of taking out new loans.

Chris Salmans, a Haliburton-based financial advisor, believes recently-announced updates to financial literacy in high school are long overdue. *Submitted.*

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Monday, July 22, 2024 5:00 p.m.

SIRCH will be hosting its AGM at the SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49 Maple Avenue, Haliburton. The meeting agenda will include the Auditor's Report, Election of Directors, Appointment of Auditor.

Members of the public are invited to attend. Please contact us for more information.

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The Highlander

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Community comes together

I left last week's Teeny Tiny Summit in Minden feeling pretty inspired.

Keynote speaker, Peter Kenyon, was a breath of fresh air as he spent an hour dissecting what it takes to build strong, thriving communities. Only, rather than regurgitating a series of verbose 'how-to' bullet points telling people how to improve life in Haliburton County, he said they need only do one thing – listen.

Kenyon believes the answers to all a community's problems lies with its people.

As a society, I feel there's been a shift recently in that whenever there's a problem, we look to others to fix it – usually government. The issue with that? Governments have become so bloated, so fixated on process that it can take years to bring even the simplest solutions forward.

Or they're so oblivious they only see an issue when it's too late.

Just look at housing. Anyone paying attention could have told you, given the demand for homes from young Canadians, the refusal or inability of successive federal and provincial governments to invest in new builds, and the growing number of immigrants coming to Ontario, that we were on the cusp of a housing crisis.

The same can be said, locally, when it comes to childcare.

Usually, when these big-ticket issues arise, they land on some politician's desk, or a council's table, that maybe strike up a volunteer committee, which gets frustrated

by a lack of action and disbands. Or worse, pawns it off to a consultant who, for big dollars, puts together a verbose 'how-to' list of bullet points telling people what they could be doing.

There's been a lot of that in Haliburton County in recent years.

Kenyon suggested the first call should be going directly to the public. Host a town hall asking for people to come and suggest ideas. Make it a time that is accessible to everyone. Buy some pizzas and offer a free meal.

This is what the town of Kulin, about 300 kilometres east of Perth, Australia did when it realized it was losing its young people. The community decided the best way to retain talent is to make itself as attractive a place as possible to the younger generations. Volunteers launched the Kulin Bush Races in 1994, which now attracts 5,000 visitors annually and pours about \$2.6 million into the local economy.

When they found the benefits of the races weren't particularly long-lasting, the community came together to raise \$25,000 to buy a waterslide and establish a waterpark. When they learned the slide was located 3,000 kilometres away, people volunteered to drive on their own dime to dismantle and transport it back to Kulin.

It's worked – Kulin now has one of the youngest demographics in Australia. More babies were born there than in any other small town across the country.

These young people have revitalized the

local economy.

Stores are fully staffed, services you wouldn't usually find in a small town are available. And they all invest locally too –

Kulin was one of the first communities in Australia to open its own community bank. Its people rallied to raise \$1 million to save its pub from going under, re-establishing it as a community hub.

The County does well from a tourism perspective but given the difficulty many full-time residents have making ends meet here, it's incumbent on us to do better. That's the only way we'll get our young people to stay.

We need to involve them in local decision-making and help them bring their plans to fruition. Crazy ideas can work – Broome, Australia became world famous for its camel rides on public beaches. It's now a multi-million-dollar business and one of the community's top employers. That came from a teenager who wanted to do something different.

Engage our youth. Maybe then Haliburton County could become the Canadian-equivalent of Kulin – a true example of what can be achieved when a community comes together.



By Mike Baker

HUMANS OF HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS

Lured by peacefulness

By Susan Tromanhauser

When Steve Potalivo and his wife, Stacey, decided to start a family, they knew it needed to be in Haliburton. Potalivo grew up in Niagara Falls while his wife lived in nearby St. Catharines. Her parents and grandparents were originally from Haliburton so they had visited many times. The young couple were lured by the peacefulness of the community and thought the city was too busy to raise children.

The newlyweds moved to Haliburton six years ago and were blessed with their daughter, Layla, last December. Stacey is currently on maternity leave from her career as a graphic artist while Potalivo works for Haliburton Bus Lines.

Potalivo has a regular bus run, safely delivering students to elementary and high school. He admits it is a job with a lot of responsibility, but he has no concerns about unruly passengers. The secret of keeping control of his charges is about making connections with each individual student. He knows the ones to have a conversation about video games and the ones to debate who will bring home the Stanley Cup. He admits there were some students disappointed local hockey player Matt Duchene ended his run for the Cup with the Dallas Stars, but there is now agreement on Potalivo's bus to

cheer for the Oilers as Canada's last team in contention.

Potalivo started his journey into busing during COVID when there was a concern about a driver shortage. He thought driving a bus was a great way to give back to the community that accepted him so readily. His job has now expanded to working in the yard, as well as recruiting and training new drivers. Potalivo loves his job as he is always able to "take the negative energy and channel it in a positive way."

When he does return to Niagara to visit his parents, he notices the difference in the communities. Haliburton people are "always polite and always have a positive outlook." In the city, stores are always open and available, but Potalivo doesn't mind the slower pace of Haliburton County. "Sunday truly is a day for family," He enjoys the wildlife, particularly the abundance of deer and the "gorgeous" scenery all around. He appreciates his in-laws have moved from the city to Bancroft, a little closer to their new granddaughter.

Potalivo has recently been out and about for 'paint a bus' events. Children have had the opportunity to paint whatever they want on the outside of the bus with vibrant, washable paint. Potalivo does say it is a difficult job to get the bus clean again for his Monday



morning run, but the smiles on the children's faces are worth it.

Potalivo also has a big smile on his face as he knows he and his wife made the best decision to raise their daughter in the best place possible – Haliburton.

(Last week's column incorrectly identified Yolanta Bronny as Yvonne. We apologize for the error.)

Correction: In the June 6 edition of *The Highlander*, in the article 'Bradley charged with vandalism' we incorrectly stated in the headline that Richard Bradley had been charged with vandalism. He was charged with mischief. We apologize for this error.

LETTERS

Schmale mail

Dear editor,

I recently received a pamphlet in my mail from Jamie Schmale, MP, asking me to vote for his Member’s Bill opposing government legislation controlling natural health products.

I have nothing against Schmale. In fact, I think he has done a reasonably good job.

I have nothing against natural health products. I use some myself.

I have been on waitlists for 12 years to get a family physician and I can’t go to the nearest emergency department because it is closed.

I need those.

I don’t need Chinese supplements. I can buy Canadian-made supplements and support Canadian businesses at the same time.

I understand Schmale is a federal representative and my issues are provincial responsibilities. However, both federal and provincial representatives use the same term - Conservative, in their party affiliations. I can’t help but believe that core ideologies remain the same for both.

I will be happy to support Schmale in his drive to get more foreign supplements after I get a family doctor and the Minden emergency department is reopened.

Priorities.

James Brown
Algonquin Highlands

Answers needed

Dear editor,

The article on David O’Brien’s retirement from Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) raised a number of issues for me, but I only want to comment on the following.

O’Brien says HHHS had to close the Minden ER because they did not have enough doctors or nurses to run two ERs. Yet, the doctors at the Minden ER said publicly the problem was not a shortage of doctors.

So, was the issue solely a shortage of nurses? Lauren Ernst says HHHS has been able to hire 26 registered nurses and practical nurses and 13 PSWs in the year ending March 31, 2024. Why was HHHS not able to hire those nurses in the year leading up to the closing? We know the problem wasn’t lack of funds, because HHHS said repeatedly money was not the reason for the closing of the Minden ER.

HHHS has never been forthright about the reason for the closing. This lack of transparency has created anger and led to numerous rumours about possible unstated agendas, neither of which are healthy for our community.

These problems will not go away until someone from HHHS addresses them with an explanation that makes sense.

Charles Simon
Gull Lake

Grab their attention

Dear editor,

I read the article about the protests against

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Tom Dibblee sent in this photo of an American Woodcock on the Haliburton Rait Trail. “It surprised me because it was a middle-of-the-day sighting and the bird was happily strutting through the woods,” he said.

the closure of the Minden Hospital, but I question the tactics.

As health care is a provincial responsibility, rather than beg, by way of a petition, why not confront the government by way of a pledge to not vote Conservative in the next provincial election?

That might grab their attention.

Jim Bertram
Minden

Stop voting Conservative

Dear editor,

Hospital closures will continue wherever and whenever Doug Ford and the Conservative Party can get away with it.

Their long-term plan is to destroy public healthcare province-wide to make way for a profit-driven system similar to the U.S.

As long as they can count on our riding to meekly return Conservatives to office, we will bear the brunt of their plan.

Keep voting Conservative, Haliburton County, and watch your healthcare disappear.

Tom Needham
Lake Kashagawigamog

Twelve more needed to reach 100

Dear editor,

In 2016, the Haliburton chapter of 100 Women Who Care was started with a

membership of 32.

Since then, this growing group of women, who meet three times per year for one hour, has raised over \$130,000 for local charities.

Members nominate the local charities and three are selected by random draw to be presented at the meeting. After a five-minute presentation by the charity representative, the membership votes and the selected charity receives the total donation. Each member pledges to donate \$100 three times per year for which they receive a tax receipt from the chosen charity.

Our last meeting was on June 12 at Silver Beach Community Centre. For more information, check out our website at 100wwchaliburton.wixsite.com or contact us at 100wwchaliburton@gmail.com.

As Helen Keller said, “alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” We would love to welcome you as part of 100 Women Who Care Haliburton.

Margaret Cox
Haliburton

Short-term renters treated unequally

Dear editor,

I was led to believe that we, as Canadians, are all treated equally.

However, with the new license fees and municipal accommodation tax, it is clear that the persons who rent short-term have a target on their back. Does a hotel, motel, campground, or trailer park have to pay these

fees and taxes?

Then, I will ask what services most short-term rental companies receive for property tax, license fees, and municipal accommodation tax. In my case, a tax bill. No road maintenance, even though the road belongs to the town, pay for dump pass for guests.

So, if the township treats us all equally, the other tourist accommodations should pay the exact fees and taxes. Then, that would be equal, plus more income for the township.

Charles Gerditschke
Moore Lake

In praise of Haliburton hospital

Dear editor,

Over the course of the past four weeks, I have had the opportunity to personally witness the incredible performance of the ER doctors and nurses at the Haliburton hospital.

Without getting into details, both my sister and I, on three separate occasions, were taken by ambulance to the hospital and received excellent medical intervention in a timely manner.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the skilled and dedicated ER doctors and nurses for the excellent care and treatment we received. We are so fortunate to have such amazing healthcare in Haliburton County.

Debbie Wales
Carnarvon

New owners to keep Kosy's traditions

By Julianne Wisner

When asked what she'll miss most about Kosy Korner, Ann Gordon replies without hesitation "the people - customers and the employees."

Along with husband, Allen, Ann has owned and operated Haliburton's downtown café since July 2011. Gordon confirmed to *The Highlander* recently the business has been sold, with Bancroft-based restaurateur Brendon Clarke taking over.

The Gordons' last day at Kosy was June 11. "We never made a whole lot of money, but I got to know everything that was going on in town first. If you don't hear it at the Kosy, it didn't happen," Ann said.

Kosy Korner has been a Haliburton staple for almost 90 years. It has drawn countless thousands over the decades – including some notable names and familiar faces.

Famed actor and comedian Mike Myers was a regular at a time, while TV presenters Colin McAllister and Justin Ryan have also been snapped at Kosy. A long list of professional hockey players, including Haliburton's Matt Duchene, have been seen enjoying a coffee overlooking Highland Street during the off-season.

While it's always an experience seeing someone notable walk through the doors, Gordon said she's upheld Kosy's welcoming traditions no matter the customer. "We treat everybody the same," she noted.

Kosy is set to celebrate its 90th birthday next year – though Gordon admitted the restaurant's history and early beginnings are somewhat shrouded in mystery.

"It's contentious whether it's actually the 90th this year, or next year. Some say it was 1934 when it started, some say it was 1935. Kosy started in a logging camp... way back

when, and it eventually moved into town," Gordon said, noting the history is captured in several local books.

"It's famous, I would say. It's a destination for a lot of people. They get to Haliburton for the long weekend and the first thing they do is come to Kosy for breakfast," she added.

Gordon's care for the restaurant is quite literally baked into the floors.

"One of the fun things we did when we came in was renovate the place – we tore up the floor and put subflooring in and we had everyone sign [sharing] their memories," Gordon said. "It was people who had their first date here, got engaged here, a lot of people had their first meal here as a baby. There were all sorts of cool memories we knew nothing about."

The Gordons took pictures of the inscriptions and hung them on the restaurant's wall – though the original messages will remain buried forever.

Speaking to her decision to sell, Gordon said she's ready to retire. When looking for someone to take over, Ann said she wanted to make sure her employees were taken care of. Clarke has confirmed all existing staff will be staying on.

"It was the only way the deal was going forward," Gordon noted.

The Gordons will keep busy through their ownership of RPM Marinas, while Ann said she's looking forward to spending more time with her grandchildren.

Clarke said he's excited to invest in Haliburton. He owns three restaurants in the Bancroft area – The Granite, Bancroft Brew Pub, and Café BC.

He said there won't be many changes to Kosy Korner.

"We're going to try to stick to the original



Ann Gordon ran Kosy Korner in Haliburton for 13 years. Photo by Julianne Wisner.

theme as much as we can and keep it a diner. Some new menu items might come eventually, and hopefully some longer hours if we can find some staff," Clarke said. He hopes to reopen the café this week.

Gordon said she's happy to see Kosy's traditions live on.

"It means a lot of things to a lot of people – we just hope it's celebrated," she said.

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Loop Troupe has 5,000 reasons to cheer

By Mike Baker

Pretty soon, people won't have to wonder whether someone is talking about beer, or Christmas cheer, when attending events at the Lloyd Watson Memorial Community Centre.

Just months after relaunching, following a nine-year hiatus, the Wilberforce Loop Troupe announced recently it had succeeded in getting a \$5,000 grant through the MacDougall Community Contest. The money will be used to improve acoustics in the main hall, which the group uses for rehearsals and live performances, and upgrade sound equipment.

Wilberforce was selected ahead of 150 other community projects to receive the top prize.

Loop Troupe members David Watson and Janice Dahms said the group only learned of the initiative a few days before entries were to close May 23.

"We were at rehearsal for 'Skit Oodles' and someone had heard about the contest and thought we should put in for it," Watson said. "The acoustics have always sucked in that room, so we put our heads together and came up with a script for a two-minute video playing into that. It was quite funny."

One of the skits had Loop Troupe members act as an audience at a wedding. Everyone struggled to hear what the pastor was saying, and when he muttered, "you may kiss the bride," the audience thought the pastor had said he needed a ride.

The other set was festive themed, at a family Christmas gathering. When someone yelled "it's time for Christmas cheer," others around the table thought they'd heard the host say they would soon be serving beer.

"We played into the fact that noise echoes in that room, and it can sometimes be hard to hear what people are saying. It was like a game of broken telephone," Watson said.

Between May 24 and 31, MacDougall received around 24,000 votes – with Wilberforce coming out tops. Watson said it was a real community effort.

"We had signs all over, people were talking about it at the grocery store, we all encouraged our family and friends to vote," he said. "And the message seemed to spread. My son told his friends, who all voted from Vancouver. One of our members, Mary Barker, her son voted from Germany. Others voted from their holidays in Spain."

"People were literally voting for Wilberforce from all over the world," Watson added.

Dahms said she was the first person to hear Wilberforce had won June 3 – her employer is a MacDougall client and received a note from the company's head office about an hour before results went live.

"I was just so excited – I didn't know what to do, whether I should post it," she said. "By the time I'd called some members, MacDougall had posted the results. Everyone found out pretty quickly – it's just a great thing, huge for the Loop Troupe and the



Members of the Wilberforce Loop Troup were excited to win a \$5,000 grant from the MacDougall Community Contest. Photo by Mike Baker.

Wilberforce community." The group will look to purchase and install soundproofing baffles along the walls and purchase better audio equipment. Watson said it will help with acoustics during live performances, and also for events such as weddings, funerals, graduations, and special functions and parties.

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Fun in the sun

It was party time in Minden June 6 as hundreds soaked up the sun at the annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School summer carnival. Organized by the parent council, the event featured fun and games for people young and old. Volunteers served complimentary hot dogs, while representatives from the Haliburton Highlands OPP, Minden Hills fire department, and County of Haliburton brought police cruisers, fire trucks, and heavy machinery for kids to tour.

Top left: Nine-year-old Caleb McElwain swept up the competition while minnow racing, with the setup operated by volunteers from the Minden Legion, and fish supplied by Outdoors Plus. Top middle: Emily Newell shows off a personalized bracelet she made at a booth manned by Point in Time and Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub employees Rachelle Stephens and Jennifer Dale. Top right: Chloe Wilson, 12, and Maddy Haywood, 13, go for a ride in the back of an OPP cruiser. Right: A team captained by Kevin Jones, far left, emerged victorious in a multi-person tug of war. *Photos by Mike Baker.*



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Stay golden

Graduating Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students passed another life milestone June 8, celebrating the conclusion of their high school careers at prom. This year's theme was 'Golden Gala', encouraging graduates to dress to impress for their big night. Justin Collins, one of 10 teacher chaperones, said 121 students attended the celebration, held at Pinestone Resort in Haliburton. (Mike Baker).

Top: Sophia MacPhee, Andrew Ranson, Declan Tribble, Anabel Acero, and Noa Yates having some fun on the dance floor. Middle: Avery Degeer and Jocelyn Thompson were all smiles. Above left: Brody Bolger celebrates with a flex after being named Prom King. Above right: Paige Hough was voted Prom Queen by her peers. Photos by Eleanor Dobbins.

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Icelandic tradition lives on in Kinmount

By Mike Baker

Kinmount will have more of a Nordic feel this weekend as relatives of early Icelandic settlers prepare to descend on the community – 150 years on from their ancestors’ arrival.

The Icelandic Canadian Club of Toronto is partnering with the Kinmount Artisans Marketplace and local historian Guy Scott to host an Icelandic National Day picnic. The event is expected to draw about 50 visitors from Ottawa and the GTA, who will learn firsthand about the struggles Icelandic nationals faced when they moved to the area in the 1870s.

Don Gislason, a member of the Toronto club, has documented the journey in his book *The Icelanders of Kinmount: An experiment in settlement*. He said a large group of Icelanders arrived in Kinmount in September 1874, having been sent to work on the Victoria railway line.

It was a brutal experience, Gislason told *The Highlander*. The immigrants lived in shanties along the Burnt River and suffered through a bitter winter, which saw 38 of them, mostly young children, die due to bad health and disease.

When one of the railway companies offering employment went belly-up, many of the Icelanders found themselves out of a job. With few other job opportunities, the immigrants left, never to return. Many moved to Manitoba, establishing Gimli – which translates to ‘heaven’ in old Norse. Gwen Sigrid Morgan, president of the

Toronto club, said she learned about Icelandic history in Kinmount in the 1980s, after Scott published his book *History of Kinmount: A community on the fringe*.

She said the immigrants’ story, while rooted in sadness, is also a great demonstration of grit and perseverance.

“People in the past met hardship with resilience. They’ve risen above it. These are the stories that empower us today,” Morgan said. “We want to draw on those stories. There’s a phrase in Iceland - Þetta reddast – that means ‘we can endure, we will endure, we will hold steadfast, this will not break us’. Despite the hardship and the loss, they landed again in Manitoba and created a new life.”

It will be the group’s second visit to the community since the pandemic. They will gather beside the Kinmount Heritage Museum, beside the memorial installed by Gudrun Sigursteinsdóttir Girgis, installed in the settlers’ honour in 2000.

Scott said the community is ready for the Icelanders’ arrival June 15 – there will be a special exhibition debuting at the museum, focusing on the early settlement of the community, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and a craft show put on by the Kinmount Artisans Marketplace, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Attendees will be invited to participate in a walk along the rail trail to the trestle bridge at noon – which is where Scott believes the lost Icelandic village of Hayford was located.

Scott will then lead a guided tour of the



Guy Scott will lead a tour of Kinmount June 15 focusing on early Icelandic settlers’ history in the community. Photo by Mike Baker.

community, starting at 3 p.m., concluding with a visit to what remains of an old village the Icelanders built near Furnace Falls.

The local historian said it will be like winding the clock back 150 years, with a Scott guiding Icelandic visitors in Kinmount. “My great, great uncle was hired by the railroad company back in the day to pick the

Icelanders up from Coboconk and bring them to Kinmount – my great aunt used to say he always told stories about how positive these people were,” Scott said. “I love history, and I think it’s important we keep these stories alive because it’s a major part of how our community came to be.”

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Celebrating spring

The Irondale Historical Society and Bark Lake Cultural Developments volunteer organization hosted a spring fling fundraiser at Irondale Church June 8. The event was a hit, despite the threat of inclement weather, bringing in \$800, which Carol Simmons, a volunteer with the groups, said will be used to pay for general repairs and maintenance at the historical site, located at 1019 Elm Rd.

Top left: Erin Templeton, Shirley Cameron, and Glenda Simmons were popular, selling baked goods at the spring fling. Above: Esther Graham was selling handmade quilts and clothing. Right: Carol Simmons, of the Irondale Historical Society, poses for a photo in front of the historic Irondale Church. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

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You are cordially invited to the

28th Annual Meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Corporation

Thursday, June 27, 2024

HHHS Minden Auditorium

6 McPherson St., Minden

1:30-2:00 p.m. – Arrival / Registration / Refreshments

2:00-2:45 p.m. – Annual Meeting*

2:45-3:30 p.m. – Question & Answer Session**

Annual Meeting business will include:

- Minutes of June 22, 2023 Annual Meeting
- Corporate By-law & Professional Staff By-law Refresh
- Election of Directors
- 2023-24 Audited Financial Statements / Audit Report
- Appointment of Auditors
- Report of the Corporation / Foundation

**Invited guests are welcome to observe the Annual Meeting. Please note that per Corporate By-law Article 4.8, voting is limited to Corporate Members in attendance in person. **All attendees in person and virtual are welcome to participate in the Q & A Session.*

Please RSVP to hhsceboardoffice@hhhs.ca by June 21, 2024, if you will be attending virtually or in person due to limited seating capacity. Zoom link and instructions will be provided two days before the event. The Annual Meeting will be recorded and made available on the HHHS website.



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The place to be

The 160th annual Haliburton County Fair was a slightly scaled back affair, thanks to the threat of thunderstorms over the weekend. The poor weather held off for most of the day Saturday, enabling Re/Max to offer complimentary hot air balloon rides, adults and kids to have fun with a corn hole tournament, and the Haliburton Highlands Time Travellers to run a classic and antique car show. Live music was provided by Crystal Gage and Kurk Bernard. The event was put on by the Minden Agricultural Society, which organized cattle displays, livestock demo shows, and a horse pull.

Top left: A cart full of kids enjoy lollipops as they prepare to embark on a tour of the Minden Fairgrounds. Top right: Brei Gordon, Donna Taylor, and Amber Dreger were at the fair representing Haliburton Bus Lines. They brought a vehicle that youth painted throughout the day. Gordon said the company is actively hiring for additional drivers. Above: Minden's Mike Wessell oversees five-year-old horses Buster and Hunter in the horse pull event, where they maxed out at 6,000 pounds. Middle: Ryker T., 8, flashes a thumbs up after completing an inflatable obstacle course. Right: Lindsay Jowett and James Jowett-Rogers painting a school bus, provided by Haliburton Bus Lines. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Happy Fathers Day

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Old becomes new

The SIRCH Bistro held a repair cafe June 2 for household items, including bikes, furniture, and electronics. People came out to have their broken items repaired and kept out of the landfill. Everything from fans to lamps to small appliances and electronics were accepted. The cafe runs the first Sunday of every month.

Above: Jan Coates is excited to have had her bike fixed. She poses with the cafe's "FIXED!" sign after her bike repair. Right: Michael Kursbatt and Jan Coates try to fix Jan's bike at the repair cafe. *Photos by Lillie Qiu.*



GOT Music?

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Renate Black and Anna Froebe are behind the Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race. Photo by Lisa Gervais.

Amazing Race will feature strange shenanigans

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Amazing Race is now open for registration, with Aug. 17 the date for a fun day that will double as a money-raiser for the Minden Community Food Centre.

Anna Froebe and Renate Black have organized the event.

Froebe said she had been in two car rallies in Hillsburgh, prior to COVID-19, and before she moved to Minden. One year she did it with her husband, another with a girlfriend.

“I had so much fun. And I always thought in the back of my mind, ‘wouldn’t it be fun to do something like this when we move to Minden?’” Froebe said.

She began putting something together and then the pandemic hit “and it put everything on the backburner.” After COVID, she met Black “and it raised its head, and I thought let’s try this, to see if Renate is interested, and I had some ideas and a file and I thought let’s see if we can put something together.” They’ve been planning the event for the past eight to 10 months.

Because it is one-day only, they decided to hold it in Minden this year, due to timing.

The race is for nine couples aged

50-plus. It does not have to be married couples. It can be friends, for example. Participants are being encouraged to create a team name and wear an outfit on the day, such as matching T-shirts and ball caps.

The two explained it will be like a car rally. After meeting at the Minden community centre, participants will undergo a shotgun start and be directed to nine locations where they will be required to complete different activities. Activities can be physical or intellectual and may require problem-solving, negotiation, communication, and cooperation. All activities will be measured to provide a score that will be used to award prizes at the end of the day. Bonus points can be earned throughout the community as well, by completing other tasks.

The two wanted to let the community know that participants may approach them, or businesses, for help or to ask for items.

“Don’t be surprised to see unusual or strange shenanigans done in the community on that day,” Froebe forewarned.

She and Black added they are working with the Minden Community Food Centre. All participants will be asked

to donate non-perishable food items as part of their \$20 registration. They’ll also donate towards a food platter for an after-race barbecue party at Froebe’s house.

They are seeking sponsors and volunteers. Their other ask is for prizes from local businesses.

“Any funds collected that are not used for prizes will be donated directly to the Minden Community Food Centre,” they said.

Froebe said while it’s like *The Amazing Race* television show, it is different, as it is fun and not competitive. At one station, they will get to choose between two different challenges.

Froebe and Black said while it’s been a blast to organize, it’s also been a lot of work.

“The first year you have to think it all through really carefully and we set everything up on Google docs but once you’ve got it, it’s a matter of just tweaking it,” Black said. Froebe added if they do it again next year, the challenge will be to keep it fresh.

Registration opened May 20 for the non-alcoholic public event. All interested participants or sponsors can email haliamazingrace@gmail.com.



Thank You for Your Support

As our Home and Cottage Show draws to a close, we wish to thank all who participated this year...

- to those who came out to see the show
- to our vendors who sold out our show
- to those who participated in our Speaker Series
- our doggie care training experts
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EVENTS**June 14, 4 to 6 p.m.**

Haliburton County, Ontario Health Coalition consultation on revitalizing and saving public health care in Ontario. At the Haliburton Legion. Give your input to the expert provincial health critics panel. Register at info@ontariohc.ca. All are welcome, light refreshments will be available.

June 15, 10:30 to 11:30 p.m.

Visit the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a bilingual hour of music and stories featuring musician Bethany Houghton. Explore storybooks, songs, and rhymes in French and English. Program administered by the Canadian Parents for French. For children up to the age of six.

June 22, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 10th anniversary of the Wilberforce library branch. Get your green thumbs ready as we beautify the Wilberforce branch with a planting workshop at 11 a.m. and a children's planting activity all day.

June 22, 2 p.m.

Museum summer open house at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost, 2314 Loop Rd. Visit and see the museum and displays. Refreshments provided. Contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca for more information.

June 24, 7 p.m.

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust annual general meeting via Zoom. All members in good standing 30 days prior to the meeting have voting privileges. Pre-registration required at haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

June 25, 2 to 4 p.m.

Visit the Dysart branch of the Haliburton County Public Library for a unique craft for adults. Pulled string flower paintings on book canvases. No registration required. All materials are provided.

July 1, 11:30 a.m.

Canada Day celebration at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost, 2313 Loop Rd. Flag raising, music and entertainment, and refreshments provided.

July 2, 7 p.m.

The Minden and District Horticultural Society, at the Minden Community Centre, presents guest speaker, Sheila Ziman, about making unique baskets using materials from the garden and nature. This will be followed by the monthly society meeting. The junior members program, for children in Grade 2 and higher, will meet from 6 to 7 p.m. at the cultural centre. This month's meeting will feature a pollinator field study and plant pressing.

July 6, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dysart et al is hosting its third annual New to You Community Yard Sale in the parking lot of A.J. LaRue Arena. There are 35 spaces for households to sell gently-used items. Preference will be given to households from Dysart. Registration is \$30. Participants are responsible for providing their own tables, chairs, and cash float. Register online at dysartetal.ca/newtoyou.

July 6, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library are holding a summer book sale at the Dysart branch. Don't forget to bring a reusable bag. Payment is by cash donation and all money raised supports library branches throughout the County.

July 12

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary is hosting its annual tag day event - volunteers will be outside various businesses in Minden accepting donations from the public. Money raised will support programming at Hyland Crest Long-Term Care, the Minden Urgent Care Clinic, and HHHS Community Support Services. Every donation helps.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised?
email mike@thehighlander.ca.

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS**Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129****Haliburton weekly activities**

Mondays: Bridge at 1 p.m. in the Schofield Rm.

Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.

Haliburton Army Cadets practice 6:30-9 p.m.

Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, main hall.

Bingo is back, featuring a brand new machine.

There's a \$1,000 jackpot on the first Wednesday of the month.

Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. & ladies auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.

Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets \$2 per draw. Ed Pickard, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards.

Saturdays: 50/50 draw 4 p.m. Tickets \$1 each, available in the Clubroom.

Clubroom hours: Mon 3-6 p.m., Tues 3-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m. & Sat 3-6 p.m.

The Legion's mandate is to help veterans, assist with their mental and physical health and social wellbeing, provide a feeling of togetherness and combat isolation. All are welcome to attend our events.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 519**Coboconk**

Second Monday of the month: General meeting - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays: Euchre - 1 p.m. Open Darts - 7 p.m.

First Wednesday of the month: Big Buck Bid Euchre from 11 a.m. \$15 per person.

Saturdays: Meat Roll at 3 p.m.

For more information contact Legion 705-454-8127

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624**Wilberforce**

If you are planning an event, our Ladies Auxiliary would be pleased to cater. Please call the branch at 705-448-2221 to arrange your event.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Monday - Thursday: Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.

Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.

Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.

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Weekly activities:

Karaoke: call for dates

Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m. Rug Hookers every second week.

Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.



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SELF-CONTAINED STORAGE UNITS for rent
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OBITUARY



In Loving Memory of
Margaret Dugas
(Resident of Wilberforce, Ontario)

Peacefully at her residence in Wilberforce on Wednesday afternoon, June 5, 2024, in her 89th year. Beloved wife of the late John Dugas (1987). Loving mother of Sandra (Brett Prince), Susan, and Carol (Brian Quinn). Fondly remembered by her grandchildren Jordan (Poonam), Tyler, Brenna (Jackson), and Steven (Brianna). Dear sister of Arthur, Marion, Stanley, Pollie, and Mark (Donna). Also lovingly remembered by her great-grandchildren Ekas and Ezra and by many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by her brother-in-law Bill and Ed. Margaret was a Registered Nurse who graduated in 1956 and had worked at the Peterborough Civic Hospital. She practiced in Montreal, London, Ottawa, Matheson, South Porcupine and Windsor. Margaret played piano for many of the local Churches in the area for many years.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Monday, June 17, 2024, for a Memorial Service in the Chapel at 11 o'clock. (Visitation one hour prior). As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHS Foundation) would be appreciated by the family.



FOR SALE

FOR SALE - 2010 Crossroads travel trailer, excellent condition, sleeps 5, 28 ft rear living & 11 ft slide out, cover, heavy duty Husky tow hitch. \$18,000. Call Merv 705-286-1098

FOR SALE – BOAT, MOTOR & TRAILER 12 foot Princecraft “Sea Sprite”, 9.9 Johnson 4 stroke, electric start, Karavan galvanized trailer, all in excellent, well maintained condition. 12 Mile Lake \$3500. Call or text 705-457-5792 or email to jakester@bell.net

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1	R	O	S	E		5	E	C	I	G		9	T	O	R	S	O			
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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

1	B	R	A	W	N	Y		7	A	Y	E		10	B	R	I	M			
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40	T	A	N	A		42	O	A	F			44	I	C	E	R	S			
46	W	R	I	T		47	E	B	R	O		48	T	H	E	R	S			
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61	I	D	O	L				62	C	R	A			63	S	T	R	E	E	P
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7	8	2	6	5	9	3	1	4
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9	6	4	2	1	3	7	5	8

HELP WANTED

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Reception/Receipting Clerk - Casual Employment

Range of pay per hour \$23.63 to \$27.64

The Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our finance team in the role of Reception/Receipting Clerk (Casual).

A detailed job description is available at dysartetal.ca/careers.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Sonja Marx at smarx@dysartetal.ca.

Applications must be submitted via email and will be accepted until 12:30 pm on Wednesday, June 19th, 2024.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.



Municipality of Highlands East
Is Currently Seeking A

Part - Time, Information Centre Labourer Rate of Pay: \$23.49/hour

This is a part-time, seasonal position. The successful candidate will work with the Community Economic Development & Committee Coordinator. This position will be responsible for providing assistance to the Community Economic Development & Committee Coordinator with the operations of the Highlands East Information Centre.

Preference will be given to candidates who have:

- Knowledge of Highlands East activities (Mineral Collecting, Trails, Geo-Caching, local events)
- Knowledge of the Highlands East Information Centre Operations
- Awareness of current goals and objectives of the Municipality
- A valid Class G or G2 driver's license
- The Information Centre Labourer will be expected to work inside and outside
- Up to 24 Hours per week, days of work will vary. Weekend work will be a requirement

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application - Information Centre Labourer" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m., Monday, June 17th, 2024 via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0

Fax: 705-448-2532 E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the Deputy CAO/Treasurer.

Applicant information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used to determine qualifications for employment with the Municipality of Highlands East. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.



Community PSW Job Information Session

June 14 | 1 pm - 4 pm
Fleming CREW Employment Centre
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NOTICES

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS -
Sundays - 10:30 am at Saint Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. **Mondays** - 7:00 PM at West Guilford Baptist Church. **Wednesdays** - 7:00 PM at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. in Minden - rear door. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: **Thursdays** 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and **Mondays** 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org. All are welcome.

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Going to the Togs

by Barbara Olson
© ClassiCanadian Crosswords

Across

- 1 Pink wine
- 5 Vape pen, for short
- 9 Human trunk
- 14 Dark time, in Drummondville
- 15 Auto parts chain with a yellow/blue logo
- 16 Takes a shot
- 17 Without thinking twice
- 20 Prepare to store, as a cord
- 21 Marriage acquisition?
- 22 Pretentiously posh
- 25 -, on a batt.
- 27 "Just ___ suspected"
- 28 Thai-related language
- 29 Simon's I.Q. testing partner
- 31 Freedom Convoy city, 2022
- 35 "Only ___ you say? Pity!" (Red Rose ad phrase)
- 37 Treatment for the touchy
- 39 Question to a think tank
- 42 Won't be fooled by
- 46 Sierra ___ (Liberia neighbour)
- 47 Notes to follow las
- 49 Gut-punch grunt
- 50 RN's workplace
- 51 Be outed?
- 55 Berry farmer and amusement park founder Walter
- 58 Find new tenants for
- 59 "Get ready for lean times"
- 63 Cinematic black hat
- 64 Lang. of Israel
- 65 "Wonderfilled" brand
- 66 Tyrannical bosses
- 67 Book ___ time (make golf plans)
- 68 Sibilant summons

Down

- 1 Genetic "messenger"
- 2 Shunned one
- 3 "Aw, shut up!", to the Fonz
- 4 Protestant work ___
- 5 Crate words after "this"
- 6 ___ tunnel syndrome
- 7 Co. stock launch
- 8 What tube riders are warned to mind, with "the"
- 9 Texter's "toodles"

- 10 Mouthy?
- 11 Third best-selling female singer of the century
- 12 "Rainforest of the ocean" makeup
- 13 East, to Ernst
- 18 English cathedral town
- 19 Grafton's "___ for Outlaw"
- 22 ___ Schwarz (NYC toy store)
- 23 Performs perfectly
- 24 Words before "avail"
- 26 Ontario's cap. city region
- 29 Lovers, in modern lingo
- 30 Not ___ many words
- 32 Similar (to)
- 33 E, at Bata
- 34 Stand buy in the summer
- 36 LIII doubled
- 38 Flight ticket info
- 39 Comic Hassan or journalist Velshi
- 40 "Whoever called it ___ was a poor judge of anatomy": Groucho Marx
- 41 More hireable, to ageists
- 43 Midday (ahem) meetings
- 44 Plays a penny whistle
- 45 Frost's frequently
- 48 Flash light?
- 51 Onetime rival of AT&T
- 52 De bonne ___ (early, in French)
- 53 Blow a perfect score
- 54 '40s jazz genre
- 56 "Dear, dear"
- 57 Cousin of 9-Down
- 59 Spanish name meaning "divine gift"
- 60 Montreal Canadiens grp. until 1917
- 61 "Still ..."
- 62 Sum fig.

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66						67					68			

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The Haliburton County Huskies Junior A Hockey Team are seeking billet families to provide a nurturing environment for our players for the 2024-25 season!

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461 FIRE ROUTE 364 - CRYSTAL LAKE • \$699,900

A classic cottage on Crystal Lake, with a million dollar view! Perched on a nice granite rock outcropping right next to the water. Steps away from a full docking system with 15+ ft of deep-water access. Stone steps into the water. The main cottage features 2 bdrms and 920 sq ft of living space. 100 AMP breaker. Includes an adorable bunkie at water's edge. Open concept with 4 beds. 98.5 ft of shoreline and 0.41 acres situated on Iron Mine Bay which is the quietest part of Crystal Lake yet affords easy access to the big lake. Just over 2 hours from the GTA. 15 minutes from the quaint village of Kinmount.

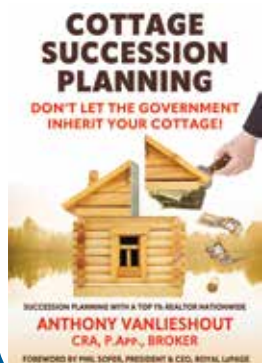


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- 800 sq ft of decking with custom glass panels



BURNT RIVER • \$799,900

- Over 200 acres and 10,000 ft frontage on Burnt River
- 3 separately deeded parcels
- Seasonal road access, well treed and lots of wildlife
- All season access to "rail trail" for skidoo/atv enjoyment
- Miles of canoe and kayaking opportunities



BRADY LAKE • \$439,000

- 212 feet sand and rock shoreline
- Great boating and fishing on spring fed lake
- Building site cleared, driveway installed
- Sunset views, level treed lot, lots of privacy
- Year round municipal access



GULL LAKE • \$899,000

- 2 bedroom 4 season home/cottage
- 120 feet waterfront with undisturbed lake views
- Wrap around deck, detached double garage
- Oversized dock, sand bottom entry
- Bunkie for extra guests, turn key ready



GULL LAKE • \$774,900

- 3 bedroom, 1602 sq ft cottage with loft
- 404 ft level sandy waterfront, rock retaining wall
- Dock, private point lot, natural granite walkways
- Bunkie with hydro, 20' x 20' detached garage, screened porch
- Comes turn key ready to enjoy



BRADY LAKE • \$324,900

- Affordable option for waterfront getaway
- Private, quiet area at end of lake
- Insulated and heated bunkie, screened in room, storage shed
- Solar powered off grid trailer essentially turn key ready
- Enjoy the peace & tranquility, fishing, boating, swimming



HALLS LAKE • \$849,900

- 3 bedroom 1128 sq ft renovated home/cottage
- 100 ft clean shoreline steps away with aluminum frame docking
- Garage with hydro, shed, sunroom, expansive lake views
- 2 separately deed parcels, easy access of Highway 35
- This ultimate retreat comes turn key ready to enjoy



COUNTY ROAD 503 • \$749,900

- 2 bdrm custom built colonial concepts log home/cottage
- Vaulted ceilings, open concept, woodstove
- Large screened in porch, 26' x 20' double detached garage
- Miles of trails for hiking/atv/biking on 117 acres
- A true outdoor lovers paradise



BARRY LINE ROAD • \$150,000

- 1.18 acre private lot with existing building
- Ideal location for dream home or cottage
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- Dug well ready for hookup, 3 bedroom septic
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